



Testimony  
before the  
**House Committee**  
**on Regulatory Reform**  
on the issue of a  
Proposed Statewide Ban  
on Smoking in Businesses

In its current form, that legislation would impose penalties and fines against business owners when individuals break the proposed law. To the members of the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association, the issue is a matter of personal responsibility.

To fine the business owner under such circumstances is analogous to fining JC Penney when somebody shoplifts a shirt. If a smoker lights up in the tavern of a downstate ski hill, in a museum, on a ferry boat, or any other tourism business; the owner would get the fine, not the lawbreaker. With all due respect, we believe such an approach is ill-advised.

**However, this provision has even greater implications which are unique to lodging property owners...**

A number of flagged and independent hotels have already instituted no smoking policies which include all areas - including guest rooms. If passed in its current form, all owners of Michigan properties including these would face possible fines and penalties.

Once the door to a guest room closes, hotel owners and managers have absolutely no control over what takes place what becomes a private enclosed space.

MLTA and the lodging and tourism members we represent would strongly oppose such an approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to point your attention towards these important concerns.